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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/490,172	01/22/2000	Deborah T. Marr	2207/7942	6827

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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/490,172	Applicant(s) Marr
Examiner Te Chen	Art Unit 2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 3, 2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5

20) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 - 20 are presented for examination.
2. It is noted that although the present application does contain line numbers in the specification and claims, the lines in the claims do not correspond to the preferred format. The preferred format is to number each line of every claim, with each claim beginning with line one.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as best as examiner is able to ascertain being anticipated Nizar et al. (U.S. Patent. No. 5,495,615).

5. As to claim 11, Nizar et al. (Thereinafter referred as Nizar) disclosed an apparatus for establish thread priority in a processor [Title; col. 4, lines 51-67; col. 12, lines 52-60] comprising

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a memory to store a value to indicate which one of the threads has a higher priority [306, Fig. 8; col. 20, 6-9].

6. As to claims 12-19, in addition to the feature of claim 11, Nizar further disclosed that a resource allocated between the plurality of threads depending on a priority assigned to each thread [col. 12, lines 55-60], wherein the resource is a decode unit in a processor system, the decode unit correspond to a bus unit [col. 12, lines 43-47] which including queues to storing bus requests from a plurality of threads [col. 11, lines 40-43] and control logic couple to the queues to select based on the priority value [11, 15 and 20, Fig. 1].

7. As to claim 20, Nizar disclosed an Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller (APIC) Task Priority Register (TPR) for storing a value to indicate which of a plurality of threads having higher priority [Abstract, line 1; col. 6, lines 20-24].

8. As to claims 1-10, the steps in the claimed method is deemed to be made inherit by the functions of the apparatus structure of claims 11-20 in the combination discussed above, hence were rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

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9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Thompson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,342) which disclosed using a controller to cleans memory buffer as a background task; Pawlowski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,741) which disclosed the method and apparatus for a multi-thread processor to handle different level of system interrupts; Hewitt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,339,808) which disclosed a system to address multi-processor memory space conversion via APIC register architecutres.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached at (703) 308-1436. The fax phone numbers for this group are: (703) 746-7238 (After Final Communication); (703) 746-7239 (Official Communications); and (703) 746-7240 (For Status Inquiries, Draft Communication).

12. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Susan Chen

SMC
Feb. 27, 2002


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100